

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, PLOS, NATO

SUBJECT: GREEK-TURKISH ISSUES

MOSCOW FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

SUMMARY: IN AFTERMATH OF JUNE 26 BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTERS, SYG HAS REPEATED HIS OFFER OF GOOD OFFICES TO GREEKS AND TURKS, INCLUDING WILLINGNESS TO VISIT THEIR CAPITALS IF IT WOULD HELP. HIS OWN JUDGMENT IS THAT TURKS ARE ALARMED AND ANXIOUS TO FIND COMPROMISE. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH ME, TURKISH PERMREP VENTURED PERSONAL VIEW WAS THAT IT WOULD TAKE LUNS, THE U.S., AND UK TO SORT OUT CURRENT SITUATION, BUT SAID GOT WAS NOT ASKING FOR MEDIATION. GREEK VIEW, AS GIVEN TO LUNS ON JULY 1, CONTINUES TO BE THAT ISSUE SHOULD BE RESOLVED IN NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS RATHER THAN THROUGH NEW MACHINERY. END SUMMARY

1. TUKISH PERMREP CALLED ON ME JULY 2 TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT DEVELOPING CONFRONTATION BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY. AMPLIFYING ON JUNE 26 MEETING, ERALP SAID PRIME MINISTERS HAD BEEN
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TOGETHER FOR THREE HOUSE, AND EXPERTS HAD CONTINUED UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO AGREE ON A DRAFT COMMUNIQUE EVEN AFTER PRIMINS LEFT FOR PRESIDENT NIXON'S EVENING RECEPTION.

2. ERALP SAID THERE WERE NEW IRRITATIONS, AND THE PROBLEM WAS GROWING DAILY. HE HAD ALREADY MET WITH LUNS, AND WAS GOING TO SEE UK PERMREP PECK. TURKEY WAS ALSO MAKING APPROACHES IN ALLIES CAPITALS.

3. EROALP GAVE PERSONAL ASSESSMENT THAT GREEKS ARE PREPARING FOR A CONFRONTATION BY BUYING ARMS FROM FRANCE, BELGIUM, GERMANY, AND THE U.S. HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY U.S. WAS SELLING GREECE WEAPONS THAT WERE NOT CALLED FOR IN FORCE PROPOSALS OF MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS. TURKEY WANTS TO WORK WITH GREECE TOWARDS A JOINT SOLUTION AS AN ALLY WITH A COMMON DESTINY. GREEKS AND TURKS MIGHT EVEN DEVELOP A JOINT COMPANY FOR EXPLORATION, IF NECESSARY. IN DEPARTING, ERALP SAID HE WAS NOT ASKING FOR MEDIATION, ONLY INFORMING ME, BUT HIS PERSONAL VIEW WAS THAT IT WOULD TAKE LUNS, THE U.S. AND THE UK TO SORT THE ISSUE OUT. HE SAID EVERYONE NOW IS ASSUMING, IN BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY, THAT THE GREAT POWERS WOULD INTERVENE IN THE EVENT OF A CONFRONTATION, BUT THIS WOULD BE VERY HARMFUL TO THE ALLIANCE.

4. ERALP LEFT THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WITH ME: COMPETING DRAFTS OF THE COMMUNIQUE THAT COULD NOT BE AGREED ON; BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR WRITTEN PROPOSALS MADE BY TURKEY; THE FORMAL PROPOSALS THEMSELVES; THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON LEAVING BRUSSELS; AND SEVERAL MAPS. I AM HAVING COPIES OF THESE PAPERS POUCHED.

5. FOLLOWING THIS INTERVIEW, SYG INFORMED ME THAT HE HAD HAD A FOLLOW-UP DEMARCHE FROM GREEK CHARGE MOLYVIATIS ABOUT JUNE 26 MEETING, AS WELL AS A CALL FROM ERALP. READING FROM HIS OWN RECORD OF MEETING WITH MOLYVIATIS ON JULY 1, SYG SAID GREEKS HAD FOUND TURKS BADLY PREPARED FOR PRIMINS MEETING. TURKISH PROPOSALS FOR NEW MIXED COMMISSIONS HAD COVERED MINORITIES AND LOS PROBLEMS, BUT NOT CYPRUS. GREEKS HAD REJECTED ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH NEW PROCEDURES, MAINTAINING THAT NEGATIVE ATTITUDE OF TURKISH GOVERNMENT IN NORMAL BILATERAL DEALINGS WOULD NOT OVERCOME BY ESTABLISHING NEW INSTITUTIONS.

6. IN REPLY TO GREEK CHARGE, LUNS SAID HE HAD REITERATED INTEREST
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OF WASHINGTON AND LONDON IN STABILIZING SITUATION, RECALLED HIS WATCHING BRIEF ON CYTRUS SITUATION, AND STATED THAT HE WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SERVE AS AN HONEST BROKER. IF NECESSARY, HE WOULD TRAVEL TO CAPITALS. THE GREEK CHARGE HAD EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR HIS OFFER, AND SAID GREEKS WOULD KEEP IT IN MIND.

7. GIVING HIS OWN OPINION, SYG SAID TURKS APPEAR GENUINELY FEARFUL THAT GREEKS ARE BUILDING UP THEIR STRENGTH FOR A SHOWDOWN. TURKS APPEAR TO BE LOOKING FOR A COMPROMISE, AND FOR THE MOMENT SEEM TO BE MORE ACCOMMODATING THAN GREEKS. GREEKS, ON THE OTHER HAND, WERE "BEATI POSSEDENTES" BY VIRTUE OF BEING "IN LOCO." WHATEVER THE LEGAL NICETIES, NATO COULD FORGET THE SOUTHEAST FLANK IF THERE WERE HOSTILITIES BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY.

8. I AGREED WITH LUNS THAT TURKS ARE GENUINELY CONCERNED ABOUT
APPARENT GREEK BUILDUP. U.S. OUGHT TO CONSIDER EFFECT OF
IMPRESSION THAT U.S. WOULD STEP IN IF SITUATION DETERIORATES
FURTHER.
RUMSFELD

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